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ANNUAL REPORT

To May, 1874.

TO THE MEMBERS OF

THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART.

The Trustees of the Association for the year ending May, 1874, respectfully report :

Their receipts during the year have been as follows :

Cash on hand at beginning of year.....		\$16,674 54
Subscriptions to Fund, paid in.....		8,850 00
Exhibitions, Entrance-money.....	\$4,727 50	
Sales of Catalogues.....	1,921 50	
Sales of Etchings.....	65 00	
Old dues, etc.....	134 31	
Interest account, balance.....	91 41	6,939 72
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Department of Parks, appropriation for 1873....	15,000 00	
Department of Parks, appropriation for 1874....	15,000 00	30,000 00
Bills payable.....		5,000 00
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Receipts for year.....		<u>\$67,464 26</u>

Their expenditures have been as follows :

Rents, Fifth Avenue and 14th Street.....	\$12,154 15	
General expenses.....	6,700 04	
Salaries.....	3,678 34	
Insurance.....	2,658 91	
Taxes.....	3,000 00	
Gas and Coal.....	950 66	
Printing, Catalogues, Stationery, etc.....	1,556 78	30,698 88
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Alterations and Repairs of Buildings.....		20,270 70
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Forward.....		\$50,969 58

Forward.....		\$50,969 58
Cesnola Collection, paid on account.....	6,350 00	
“ “ arranging.....	508 82	
Show-cases and Furniture.....	7,020 98	
Kensington Reproductions.....	1,457 26	
Works of Art.....	125 00	15,462 06
Cash on hand, May, 1874.....		1,032 62
Expenditures for year.....		<u>\$67,464 26</u>

The expenses of the past year have been extraordinarily heavy, owing to several causes. For the entire time the Trustees have been under double rent, as the lease of the premises in Fifth Avenue did not expire till the 1st inst.; and they were unable to re-let the buildings, as they were of very peculiar construction. From this extra expense they are now free. Another cause was the heavy outlay required for altering and repairing the new premises in Fourteenth Street, to fit them for the purposes of the Museum. This expense is also now at an end. A third cause was the purchase of show-cases, and other necessities for the exhibition of the more valuable or fragile parts of the Cesnola Collection, and more particularly for the valuable Loan-Exhibition. Until our present exhibition space is further enlarged, additional expense under this head will be very small. All these causes of outlay having been thus practically removed, the expenses of the coming year are expected to be moderate.

The present financial position of the Museum is as follows :

Total Subscriptions to Fund, paid.....	\$206,950 00
“ Donations of Works of Art, value.....	47,030 00
Bills payable.....	5,000 00
Total receipts.....	<u>\$258,980 00</u>

Paid for Paintings, Drawings, etc.....	\$145,250 00	
Works of Art, mostly donations.....	47,155 00	
Kensington Reproductions.....	3,160 76	
Etchings, less sales.....	4,523 46	
Show-cases.....	9,780 22	
Furniture.....	1,246 34	
Cesnola Collection, paid on account purchase...	6,350 00	
Freight, storage, arranging, etc.....	4,360 72	221,826 50
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Alterations of Buildings.....	22,817 52	
Balance of expenses not covered by receipts....	13,303 36	36,120 88
Cash on hand.....		1,032 62
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Total expenditures.....		\$258,980 00
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During the year past the Museum has been removed from its former location in Fifth Avenue, to the Douglas Mansion in West Fourteenth Street. Extensive alterations and additions were made to the building to fit it for the purposes of the Association, and their various possessions have been carefully removed to their new quarters. A large hall was prepared for the reception of the valuable collection of Dutch and Flemish paintings, and the projected plan of a Loan-Collection has been entered upon. For nearly the entire year the Museum has been open to the public and great interest has been manifested in the collections.

As stated in the last Annual Report of the Trustees, the Cesnola Collection of Cypriote Antiquities was purchased by the President, and deposited with the Museum as a loan. The rooms devoted to this remarkable and instructive collection of ancient art have been visited by many thousands of our citizens during the year, and its important archæological treasures have been more and more appreciated. They are already the subject of careful examination and study by eminent American and European scholars, and have been commented upon in learned publications in Germany and elsewhere. New art-value is constantly revealed in these antiquities; and we have the assurance of distinguished American instructors that their educational value and importance cannot be over-estimated.

The Trustees have now the pleasure of announcing to the Members that the Cesnola Collection has become the property of the Museum. During the past six months an exertion has been made to raise the necessary sum for the purchase: the amount of forty-five thousand dollars has been subscribed, part of the amount paid, and the collection transferred to the possession of the Museum. There remains to be raised the further sum of \$15,000 in gold, for which the Trustees rely on the interest of the members and the public. A vigorous effort by Members would secure this sum in a few days, and the Trustees appeal to all who are interested to exert their individual efforts for the accomplishment of the object.

General L. P. di Cesnola, after arranging the collection in the rooms of the Museum, has returned to Cyprus and resumed his explorations. He was very desirous that the results of his continued labor should be added to this collection, and proposals were made by him to the Trustees, looking to that end, which cannot but be regarded as highly generous on his part, and which seemed most desirable for acceptance on behalf of the Museum. A contract was prepared and was awaiting execution when the financial crisis of last autumn occurred, and made it necessary for the Trustees to suspend all further action upon it.

Meantime General Cesnola went on with his excavations at his own expense, and with important and gratifying success. He has steadfastly refused offers of purchase from European sources; and has from time to time forwarded to us photographs and descriptions of antiquities found by him, and is anxiously hoping that the Metropolitan Museum of Art may be able to execute the contract, so that the results of his explorations may be found a united collection in America.

A considerable number of gold ornaments and jewelry, obtained by him since his return to Cyprus, are now on their way to this country, and will be deposited with us by the purchaser, if we desire, as he has bought them in order to place them at the disposal of the Museum should we be able to purchase them.

The Trustees invite the earnest attention of the Members to this subject. It cannot be necessary to urge the manifest value

of the proposal of General Cesnola to American scholars and students. The money needed is by no means a large amount, and the results to be obtained promise to be of the highest value.

Appended to this report is a list of works of art presented to the Museum during the past year. The most important among these, are :

"The Musical Party," a painting of Bonifacio, from Mr. Morris K. Jesup.

A large antique cabinet of marquetterie work inlaid with porcelain, from Mrs. Frederick Schuchardt.

The Kensett Collection, the munificent gift of Mr. Thomas Kensett, comprises thirty-eight pictures, the last summer's work of John F. Kensett, that eminent and lamented artist, who was our active and valued associate in this institution. It is presented with the sole conditions that it be kept together as one collection, to be called by the name of the artist, and that the works, some of which are in an unfinished state, be preserved in their present condition. Mr. Kensett's memory is cherished by all lovers of American art. This collection illustrates his ability as an artist, and his astonishing industry. The unfinished works have a peculiar value to art-students, while the finished pictures are of varied character, exhibiting in a striking manner the characteristic style and peculiar finish of Mr. Kensett's productions. The collection will always be important in the history of American art; and the thanks of the institution and the public will be given to the donor.

The Nine Muses, a series of nine paintings, by the late Joseph Fagnani, presented by friends of the artist who purchased them from his estate, are valuable as specimens of the work of that artist and as illustrations of our own times. Each of the muses is a portrait of a lady of this country and period, and the faces will always be regarded with interest as types of American beauty in the latter half of the nineteenth century.

The success of the Loan-Collection is a subject of congratulation. The fact is demonstrated that there are in private hands in our country and city a great number of works of art in various departments, ancient and modern, of which the cabinets of the

Museum, crowded as they now are, exhibit but a very small proportion. The readiness with which possessors of these articles have loaned them for public inspection speaks highly for the generosity and public spirit of citizens. While members of the Museum have contributed largely to this department, our thanks are due especially to others not connected with the institution, who have placed in our custody valuable works of art, paintings, vases, watches, enamels, and objects of interest in great variety. A list of the objects loaned and the names of the lenders is appended to this report. The Trustees desire specially to thank Mr. Cogniat for the loan of his large collection of ancient arms and armor, with numerous other objects of art and virtu; and Mr. James L. Claghorn, of Philadelphia, for the selections from his collection of engravings, which fill the South-east room on the second floor of the building.

It is quite evident from the experience of the past year that if our building were four times its present size, it would not be difficult to fill it with a loan-collection, which could be frequently changed and replaced with other articles, illustrating art in various ages and countries. The wealth of America in art-possession has never, hitherto, been appreciated.

This department of the Museum has already served a most important educational purpose. It has shown to the American public a vast deal of the beautiful in art which they had before no opportunity to study, it has produced its effect on public taste, and will continue to be one of the most important agents in the education of all classes of the people.

The plan of opening the Museum to the public one day in the week without charge, has proved an excellent one. On that day the attendance of those of our citizens who are not able to pay for admission has been large and constant. It is especially noteworthy to observe the careful examination and study with which visitors on the free days inspect the works of ancient and modern mechanics and artisans of their own guilds. Nothing could better illustrate the importance for educational purposes of a museum of art.

The average attendance on the free days has been 1,158.

On one day this attendance reached over four thousand.

The average number of paying visitors on the other days has been 77. In the latter number are not included those who came in on members' and lenders' tickets, which would materially increase the average.

The Treasurer's report will indicate the amount received for admissions.

There seemed every reason to suppose that if the Museum were lighted with gas and arranged for opening in the evenings, the attendance would be large, especially of those of our citizens who were otherwise occupied during the day. The Executive Committee accordingly provided for such opening, but the experiment did not prove satisfactory. The average attendance in the evening was but 32. The receipts did not pay the expense of keeping the museum open and lighted, and the evening exhibitions have accordingly been discontinued. The experiment, however, has not been finally abandoned, and it is hoped that at a future time it may be more successful.

The future location of the Museum in the Central Park, in structures to be provided by the city, has been a subject of constant interest to the Trustees during the past year. Plans for the proposed buildings have been prepared for the Commissioners of Public Parks by their architect, and submitted by them to the Trustees of the Museum, who have examined them with great care. After various suggestions and alterations these plans have been substantially agreed upon by both parties, and Mr. Calvert Vaux, Architect of the Commissioners, is ready to advertise for proposals for that portion of the edifice which it is now proposed to erect. The building will soon be commenced, provided it shall appear that the plans settled upon can be carried out and this part of the building completed for a sum within the amount, five hundred thousand dollars, appropriated by the Legislature for the purpose. The Trustees are firmly opposed to the commencement of any work which cannot be entirely completed for the sum thus appropriated; and in this the Commissioners are understood to fully concur.

In the meantime, the Commissioners have commenced ex-

cavating for the site of the building in that part of Central Park known as the Deer Park, with the principal front on Fifth Avenue.

In conclusion, the Trustees view the results of the last year's work with great satisfaction. It is no longer a question whether a Museum of Art can be established in America, nor does any doubt remain of the interest which the people will take in such an institution. A single year's experiment with the plan of a loan-exhibition, never before attempted in this city, has surprised even those who were most sanguine of its success. The exhibition is, indeed, small in comparison with the great European collections, but no one of them was commenced with any greater promise of growth and development. It is worthy of special notice that while Europe has been searched for more than a century by lovers of art, until it seems to be regarded as hopeless to discover any thing more which is important in the illustration of art-history, America has been thought destitute of all such possessions. But, it is evident that this view has been erroneous, and that it has only needed the establishment of a Museum of Art to bring out from private hands in this country much which would be worthy of a place in the finest collections of Europe. Our beginning is but small indeed, and many years must elapse before our collections can be compared with those of the great museums of England, France and Germany. But in the Cesnola Collection we already possess that which no other museum in the world contains, the illustration of the birth, childhood, nursing, education, youth and development of Greek Art; and we look forward with entire confidence to a day in the future when the American student may find in our cabinets and rooms a reasonably complete illustration of the history of Art in various departments, from the first rude moulding in clay into form by a Phœnician in the early ages, through Asiatic, Egyptian, Grecian, Roman, Byzantine, Mediæval and Modern influences, down to the present age.

All of which is respectfully submitted.